

*April 2012*

*“What we learn with pleasure, we never forget.” – Alfred Mercier*

## **Humor and Multimedia to Engage the Net Generation**

With new standards and state mandates rolling into the classroom, one can easily forget that it's possible for learning to be fun. Ronald Berk, PhD, a self-proclaimed “Humor Professor”, presented at the Changing Suburbs Institute Seventh Annual Education Forum at Manhattanville College on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Berk has done a great deal of research on the positive effects of using humor in the classroom. He then linked the results from 80+ research studies over the last half century with the world our students live in today. Their world revolves around music, movies, music videos, PC and video games, and TV programs. Dr. Berk states, *“You need to leverage these multimedia sources as teaching tools in a learner-centered environment. It's important to use music, movie clips, parodies of TV programs, games, and humor as systematic teaching strategies. These strategies can activate the students' prior knowledge of the cultural elements in their world to generate motivation, interest, and attention to learn new material from our world. They draw on the theories of multiple intelligences by Gardner and Goleman, tapping 4-6 intelligences and a variety of learning styles, so EVERY student can learn in ANY subject. This approach can increase student success and retention dramatically.”*

<b>Humor and Laughter</b>	
<b>Psychological Benefits</b>	<b>Physiological Benefits</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Reduces anxiety</li> <li>◆ Reduces tension</li> <li>◆ Reduces stress</li> <li>◆ Reduces depression</li> <li>◆ Reduces loneliness</li> <li>◆ Increases self-esteem</li> <li>◆ Restores hope and energy</li> <li>◆ Provides a sense of empowerment and control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Improves Mental Function</li> <li>◆ Exercises and Relaxes Muscles</li> <li>◆ Improves Respiration</li> <li>◆ Stimulates Circulation</li> <li>◆ Decreases Stress Hormones</li> <li>◆ Increases Immune System's Defenses</li> <li>◆ Increases the Production of Endorphins</li> </ul>

*Put some of Ron Berk's research into practice into your classroom...*

1. Survey your students: Find out their top 3 favorite TV programs, movies, commercials, video games and music videos.
2. Compile a Top 10 List.
3. Find video or sound clips of your students' favorites and weave them into your lessons (or perhaps use them as a “Commercial Break”).

For more information on how to incorporate humor and multimedia into your classroom, click [here](#) to visit Dr. Berk's articles on the subject.

April 2012

## Storia™

### A Free Reading Application from Scholastic

Submitted by Collette Martin



Our school has been specially selected to participate in the launch of Storia™, the new free eReading app from Scholastic. Designed for children, Storia™ is a fun, interactive reading experience that connects kids with great books in a whole new way -- building confident readers both in school and at home. Teachers and parents who sign up will receive 5 free eBooks!

A Scholastic Representative is tentatively scheduled to attend the Book Fair Family Night at Walden. During this time, the representative will demonstrate this application for parents and educators. More information will be distributed the week of the Scholastic Book Fair, which is scheduled for **May 7th to 11th** in the Walden Library. The Book Fair is open to all, so please consider stopping by to purchase books and support the Walden and Pines Bridge programs!

Go to [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs) and create an account so you will be able to sign in to Storia. For more information please contact Collette Martin at X771 or [cmartin@pnwboces.org](mailto:cmartin@pnwboces.org).

Click on the icon to add the Book Fair to your calendar →



Scholastic Book  
Fair00.ics

## Live Binder Updates ✧ Digital Citizenship ✧

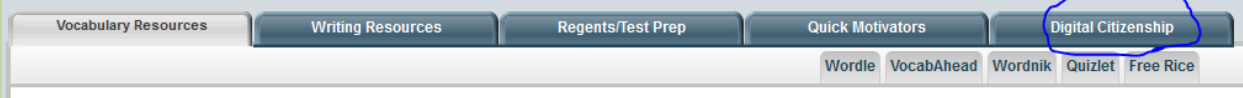
Please check out some of the resources that your colleagues have found useful. If you have any resources you'd like to contribute to the Live Binder, you can submit them via this form... [Web Resource Submission](#).

[BOCES Instructional Technology Live Binder](#)

Password: BOCES

### BOCES Instructional Technology - Web Resources

Binder Author: [carmisto](#) | Updated: 03-29-12 | [Details](#)



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## **8 Microsoft Word Shortcuts You Probably Don't Know**

Resource submitted by Michelle Sherer (Arts in Education)

Which of these Microsoft Word Shortcuts do you know?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double Click and Drag | <input type="checkbox"/> Double Underline               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change Case           | <input type="checkbox"/> Add Buttons to your Toolbar    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add the Date          | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Quick Parts                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conform Fonts         | <input type="checkbox"/> Customize Quick Access Toolbar |

Click [here](#) to check out an article and video outlining how to do the above tasks in the shortest amount of time!

## **Teaching the iGeneration Using (Free) Web Tools**

Fox Meadow Takes the Show on the Road

The Fox Meadow Instructional Technology Committee will be presenting at the NSYPEED Conference (AM Session) on **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. This presentation will explore various free web tools that can be used in the classroom to increase student motivation, creativity, and overall academic achievement. Most of the tools that will be explored are ideal for students in grades 4-12, but can be modified to fit the needs of younger learners. If you will be attending this conference, stop by and check out the presentation!

## **New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education**



Are you dedicated to technology and committed to transforming teaching and learning? Do you want to provide our children with an education that prepares them to live satisfying and productive lives? If so, consider joining NYSCATE. It's free! To learn more about NYSCATE and membership benefits, click [here](#).

## **Technology Mini-Workshops**



Would you like to learn more about a certain web tool? If so, a "mini-workshop" can be set up. These voluntary workshops are approximately 30 minutes long and will be scheduled to take place directly after your students dismiss for the day. If you're interested in learning new ways to infuse technology into your classroom, please fill out this [Mini-Workshop Form](#).

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## **Teq SMART Board User Conference**

Explore the SMART Board and its many applications in hands-on sessions taught by SMART Certified Master Trainers, who are also state certified teachers. Share ideas with other educators in your area, and visit the Solutions Room for live product demos and Q&A with our sales team, technical support staff and instructors.

Registration (\$49) includes breakfast, lunch, and raffle prizes.

Sessions **may** include:

- Digital Storytelling
- Google Apps at your Fingertips
- Learning with the iPad
- SMART Board Basics
- The 20 Coolest Things (that you can do with a SMART Board)



**When:** Saturday, April 28, 2012, 8:30am-3:30pm

**Where:** Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

**Contact:** [Events@teq.com](mailto:Events@teq.com)

Click [here](#) to register!

## **Sqworl.com: *An Online Bookmarking Tool***

Submitted by Michele Smail



Sqworl is an online bookmarking tool that saves a screen capture of each page you bookmark. To help you organize your bookmarks, you can create multiple groups of bookmarks in your Sqworl account. You can share one or all of your bookmarks groups via the unique web address (url) Sqworl assigns to each group. You can add bookmarks to your Sqworl account by manually inputting the web address (url), using a browser bookmark tool, or via an iPhone app. Create a free account at [www.sqworl.com](http://www.sqworl.com) and start sharing your bookmarks with co-workers and friends! To get a better understanding of how Sqworl works, click [here](#) to watch a short tutorial on this helpful site!